

Minutes
Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting
October 18, 2022

The Charter Authorizing Panel met on Tuesday, October 18, 2022. Panel Chair Deborah Coffman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Deborah Coffman, Karli Saracini, Mark Zellner, Phil Baldwin (Virtual), Toyce Newton (Virtual), Kim Davis (Virtual), Dr. Sonya Wright-McMurray (Virtual)

The transcription of this meeting may be accessed on the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education website at the following: <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/about/archived-minutesvideo>

II. Consent Agenda

Ms. Newton moved to approve the CAP minutes from September, 13 2022. Mr. Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Action Agenda

III.1. Hearing for consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School Application for Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy

Presenter: Dorie Summons, Public School Charter Director

Description: The Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy has submitted an application for a District Conversion Public Charter School.

Representative Monte Hodges spoke in favor of the charter proposal prior to the district's presentation.

Ms. Chantelle Raper spoke on behalf of Rivercrest School District. She introduced Superintendent Cox and others attending via Zoom to present information regarding the proposed charter. Ms. Raper discussed the mission statement and rationale for Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy. She also described key program features which include social/emotional learning, career exploration, and innovations in academics.

Mr. Hunter Durham spoke about academic innovations. He presented data about the dip in the academic achievement for students as they transition from one school to another. He spoke specifically about providing opportunities for students to grow and to understand themselves while still in junior high school. Currently students have limited choices in electives at the junior high school. He proposed an open-door approach to electives so that all students can have choices.

Ms. Raper spoke again about sample student schedules. She also spoke about building CTE programs that are relevant to the geographic area (Fed Ex, transportation/logistics, agriculture, etc.) Ms. Raper also spoke about the partnership with Arkansas Northeastern College and the career pathways as well as the flexibility for students.

Ms. Coffman asked if a 4.D-1 waiver was being requested. Ms. Raper clarified that this would not apply to core teachers. Ms. James confirmed that 4.D-1 was for CTE only.

Rivercrest indicated that a waiver of teaching load/class size is not needed.

Motion made by Mr. Zellner to approve the application as presented. Motion was seconded by Ms. Saracini. Motion is to approve for 5 years. Motion passed unanimously.

III.2. General Operating Procedures Update

Presenter: Dorie Summons, Public Charter School Director

Description: The General Operating Procedures have been updated and are ready for review and approval.

Ms. Summons spoke on behalf of the DESE Office of Public Charter Schools and presented the updated General Operating Procedures.

Mr. Zellner thanked Ms. Summons for her work regarding updates to the General Operating Procedures.

Motion to approve the General Operating Procedures was made by Ms. Saracini, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Baldwin. Motion passed unanimously.

III.3. Action Item # 3 Surrender of IDEA Public School Arkansas Charter

Presenter: Dorie Summons, Public Charter School Director

Description: IDEAS Public Schools of Arkansas submitted a letter of surrender for the Arkansas Charter.

Ms. Summons spoke on behalf of DESE Office of Public Charter Schools. She indicated that the Charter sent a letter asking to surrender the approved charter.

Ms. Newton made a motion to approve the request. Dr. Wright-McMurray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

Ms. Newton moved to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Wright-McMurray. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Ms. Deborah Coffman, Charter Authorizing Panel Chair